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Draft  
April 14, 1958

Dear Professor Belousov:

Mr. John Sparkman has been making gravity measurements with the new LaCoste geodetic meter as part of our IGY program for the establishment of an integrated and correlated gravity network encompassing most of the globe. In connection with this work he has visited all continents including Antarctica, where he visited the Soviet IGY Station at Mirny, and made appropriate gravimetric measurements.

I am pleased to report that Mr. Sparkman was most cordially received at Mirny where he had an opportunity to discuss his work with Soviet scientists. In the course of his discussions with members of the scientific complement at the Mirny Base, it was informally suggested that extension of the work might be possible within the Soviet Union itself. To this end, I am writing to inquire whether the Soviet IGY Committee would be interested in co-sponsoring such correlated measurements within the Soviet Union and thereby tying vast areas of the earth's land mass into the correlated network. Needless to say, this would present an opportunity for Soviet scientists to make simultaneous measurements and further the possibility for eventually determining absolute values of gravity. It is our desire, of course, that Mr. Sparkman or one of his associates should work in accordance with the wishes and instructions of the Soviet IGY Committee and would transmit the results of his measurements in the Soviet Union to the Soviet IGY Committee.

-2-

Dr. G. P. Woollard, who is the Chief U. S. Scientist in this aspect of the gravity program, will be a delegate to the forthcoming meeting in Moscow. His presence in the Soviet Union will afford an excellent opportunity for commencement and partial completion of a co-sponsored correlation program. He could bring his Worden geodetic meter to the meeting and undertake preliminary correlation in connection with post-conference travels; perhaps such measurements could even include establishment of a north-south line tying into stations Dr. Woollard has established in India.

The earliest expression of the views of the Soviet IGY Committee in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh Odishaw  
Executive Director